



Asian Pacific American Student Services: Promoting Unity, Liberty, and Education (PULE)

PULE Overview:

PULE (pronounced PU-LAY, meaning “leader” in several Oceanic languages) is a Pacific Islander-focused program within APASS. Initiatives include youth outreach, cultural empowerment, and community dialogue.

Program goals include:

- Building PULE to serve as a safe space for PI community development at USC
- Encouraging PI and non-PI students to engage in cross-cultural discussion and service projects that will impact the Southern California PI community
- Building a pipeline project to increase recruitment and admission of Pacific Islander youth to USC

Positive Outcomes Through Outreach (POTO) Overview:

Program Description

The POTO program will assist in the preparation of high school students for admission into a higher learning institution. This program will empower students to think about their own cultural identity and heritage, and help develop leadership skills in the PI community. The program’s mission is to increase the enrollment of Pacific Islander students in colleges and universities by educating, guiding, and providing assistance to middle and high school students.

Please contact the APASS Director or Assistant Director for further information regarding the POTO curriculum.

Youth Summit Overview:

Program Description

The mission of the Youth Summit is to bring together Pacific Islander middle and high school students and their families for workshops, panels, and presentations to motivate, inspire, and inform about college opportunities and resources. There were **90 participants** during the 2012-2013 academic year, consisting of students, coordinators, and workshop speakers.

Program Highlights

Over **95%** of the students either **agree** or **strongly agree** that PULE had a positive impact on their interest in higher education, development of their leadership skills, and reflection on their cultural identity. Specifically, **80%** of the students **strongly agree** that the Youth Summit empowered them to think about their cultural identity. Furthermore, **97%** of the students **agree** or **strongly agree** that the USC campus visit increased their interests in applying for college.

Areas of Improvement

Less than **50%** of the participants were able to identify at least three historical moments that have shaped the Asian-Pacific Islander experience. Coordinators can play a role in guiding students in identifying historical moments. Additionally, students of multiple ethnicities desired to learn more about their identities as individuals of mixed ethnic backgrounds.

New Directions

“Development of leadership skills” and “familiarity with admissions and financial aid” were learning outcomes that students recognized as being achieved, but also indicated that there is room for further improvement.

Visit www.usc.edu/apass for more information on PULE!

APASS is open year-round and is located in the Student Union Building, Room 410.

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